

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4469

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2322

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ZIA ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN SPEECH TO NATION

REF: DACCA 1963

1. SUMMARY: IN AN ADDRESS WHICH WAS VIRTUALLY
AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECH, APRIL 30, PRESIDENT ZIA
OUTLINED A COMPREHENSIVE AND AMBITIOUS PROGRAM FOR THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH. ZIA
LISTED NINETEEN POINTS AS THE BASIS FOR THIS PROGRAM. EACH
OF THE POINTS LISTED A GOAL FOR THE NATION, SUCH AS THE
NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE RURAL ECONOMY, TO ERADICATE ILLITER-
ACY, TO CHECK POPULATION EXPLOSION, AND TO SAFEGUARD THE
RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS. IN ADDITION, MORE SPECIFIC PRO-
GRAMS WERE ANNOUNCED, INCLUDING DECISIONS TO REINTRODUCE
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THE REGISTRATION OF NEW TRADE UNIONS, TO ESTABLISH AN
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY AND TO LIBERALIZE THE INDUSTRIAL INVEST-
MENT POLICY. ZIA'S SPEECH SEEMED TO REPRESENT A POLITICAL
PLATFORM ON WHICH HE WOULD STAND FOR HIS MAY 30 NATIONAL
REFERENDUM. INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION SEEMS FAVORABLE TO THE
SPEECH ALTHOUGH HIS PRIORITY LISTING OF PROGRAMS HAS
ELICITED SOME COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS SECOND SPEECH TO THE NATION AS PRESIDENT, ZIA PRESENTED HIS PROGRAM FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH. THE SPEECH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH DOMESTIC MATTERS AND ONLY ONCE REFERRED IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE NEED FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH ARE MUSLIM AND THOSE OF THE SUB-CONTINENT. IN ADDITION TO LISTING NINETEEN POINTS AS A BASIS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ZIA DETAILED SEVERAL SPECIFIC DECISIONS AND PROGRAMS SOON TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

3. IN BRIEF, THE NINETEEN POINTS CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS:

1. TO PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATE;
2. TO REFLECT IN THE NATIONAL LIFE THE FOUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION, I.E. "COMPLETE FAITH IN ALLAH, DEMOCRACY, NATIONALISM AND SOCIALISM, WHICH IS DEFINED AS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" IN EACH SPHERE OF LIFE";
3. TO BUILD A SELF-RELIANT NATION;
4. TO ENSURE PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT;
5. TO GIVE PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT;
6. TO MAKE THE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD AND TO ENSURE THAT NOBODY STARVES;
7. TO INCREASE CLOTH PRODUCTION;
8. TO ENSURE THAT NOBODY IS HOMELESS;
9. TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY;
10. TO ENSURE MINIMUM MEDICAL CARE;

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11. TO PLACE WOMEN IN THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY AND TO INSPIRE YOUTHS FOR NATION-BUILDING;
12. TO GIVE INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE SECTOR;
13. TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF WORKERS;
14. TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES;
15. TO CHECK POPULATION EXPLOSION;
16. TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP BASED ON EQUALITY WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE MUSLIM NATIONS;
17. TO DECENTRALIZE THE ADMINISTRATION AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT;
18. TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL SYSTEM BASED ON JUSTICE AND FREE OF CORRUPTION;
19. TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGION, COLOR AND SECT.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE NINETEEN GENERAL GOALS LISTED ABOVE, ZIA OUTLINED SEVERAL SPECIFIC DECISIONS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN OR WOULD SOON IMPLEMENT. INCLUDED AMONG THESE

WAS THE DECISION TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGENTS AND THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF NEW TRADE UNIONS, A PRACTICE WHICH HAD BEEN CURTAILED BY THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (REGULATIONS) ORDINANCE OF 1975; ISSUED A MONTH AFTER THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION TOOK POWER. IN OTHER MATTERS, A MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND AN ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. ZIA DECLARED ALSO THAT A PERMANENT NATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE TO WATCH THE SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES WOULD BE SET UP AND THAT A ONE-MILLION-TON FOODGRAINS RESERVE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. AS AN INCENTIVE TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT, ZIA PROMISED THAT THE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT POLICY WOULD BE LIBERALIZED.

5. COMMENT: ZIA'S PROGRAM, SIMILAR TO WHAT HE PRESENTED TWO WEEKS AGO TO THE UNION PARISHAD CHAIRMEN (REFTEL), SEEM TO BE AN AMBITIOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE ONE. AMONG THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NINETEEN POINTS, IT IS NOTEWORTH THAT ZIA SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR SUPPORTING THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE CONSULTATION, WHICH INCLUDED THE NEW ADDITION OF FAITH IN ALLAH INSTEAD OF SECULARISM. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMS ARE IN FIFTEENTH PLACE. THE ENTIRE SPEECH SEEMS TO PRESENT THE POLITICAL PLATFORM ON WHICH ZIA WILL SEEK HIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AT THE MAY 30 REFERENDUM. ZIA INDICATED AS MUCH BY CONCLUDING HIS LONG SPEECH BY REMINDING THE PEOPLE THAT A NATIONAL REFERENDUM WAS APPROACHING AND ASKING THEM TO SUPPORT HIS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. NOW THE "19 POINTS" WILL JOIN THE LIST OF VARIOUS "POINT" PLATFORMS IN BENGALI POLITICS, THE LAST BEING MUJIB'S SIX.

6. NO EDITORIAL REACTION HAS YET BEEN PRINTED, BUT INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION SEEMS TO BE SUPPORTIVE.

7. SECRETARY OF ELECTION COMMISSION TOLD POLCOUNSELOR MAY 1 THAT BALLOTS FOR MAY 30 WOULD PHRASE QUESTIONS TO INCLUDE APPROVAL (OR DISAPPROVAL) OF BOTH ZIA AS INCUMBENT PRESIDENT AND HIS "POLICIES AND PROGRAMS".
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